

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 108**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Eng**

February 22, 2008

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 108—Relative to hate crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 108, as introduced, Eng. Hate Crimes Awareness Month.

This measure would designate June 2008 as Hate Crimes Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Hate crimes are acts of terror meant to intimidate  
2 and cause fear in our communities to deter the free exercise of  
3 enjoyment of any rights or privileges secured by the United States  
4 and the California Constitutions, the laws of the United States, and  
5 the laws of the State of California; and  
6 WHEREAS, The California Department of Justice reported  
7 1,397 hate crimes in 2005, and 1,306 in 2006; and  
8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice’s National  
9 Criminal Victimization Survey estimates that an annual average  
10 of 210,000 hate crime victimizations occurred nationally from July  
11 2000 to December 2003; and  
12 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice’s National  
13 Criminal Victimization Survey reveals that 56 percent of hate  
14 crimes are not reported to the police; and  
15 WHEREAS, The underreporting of hate crimes is the result of  
16 a variety of factors that include the victim’s lack of knowledge  
17 about the criminal justice system, fear of retaliation, linguistic and

1 cultural barriers, immigration status, and prior negative experience  
2 with governmental agencies; and

3 WHEREAS, California needs to remain vigilant in promoting  
4 tolerance to address growing white supremacist movements, such  
5 as the Aryan Nation and the Aryan Brotherhood, in California that  
6 recruit our youth through music, the Internet, and other media and  
7 information outlets; and

8 WHEREAS, The Anti-Defamation League reports that hate rock  
9 concerts are organized yearly in southern California by labels like  
10 White Heat Productions and Condemned Records which feature  
11 bands that encourage hate violence in their lyrics; and

12 WHEREAS, The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that the  
13 number of active hate crime organizations increased from 52 active  
14 hate organizations in 2005 to 63 active hate organizations in 2006;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The 36 million Californians make up one of the  
17 most diverse populations in the United States where 43.8 percent  
18 identify as White, 35.2 percent identify as Latino, 6.6 percent  
19 identify as Black, 11.1 percent identify as Asian, 0.7 percent  
20 identify as Native American, 0.3 percent identify as Native  
21 Hawaiian, 1.9 percent identify as multiethnic, 12.3 percent identify  
22 as people with disabilities, 50.5 percent identify as female and  
23 26.8 percent identify as foreign-born Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, All Californians should condemn acts of violence  
25 and prejudice on the basis of race, ethnic background, national  
26 origin, religious belief, sex, age, disability, or sexual orientation;  
27 now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the month of June 2008 is hereby  
30 designated as Hate Crimes Awareness Month to educate  
31 community members on the proper reporting of hate crimes and  
32 to increase awareness about diversity and tolerance to improve  
33 public safety; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
35 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O